Vol. 2. Numb. 9.

THE REHEARSAL.

1. How *Epiſcopacy* fell in *Scotland*, and yet keeps Ground by the *Inclinations* of the *People*.
2. The *Presbyterians* turn this to an Argument of their *Moderation*. Their Objection Retorted of ſtanding out againſt the *Laws*.
3. Their Argument from *Conſcience* makes againſt them.
4. The firſt *Presbyterian Church* ſet up at *Geneva* in 1541. Came into *England* in 1641.
5. The *Miſery* the *Scots Clergy* are Reduc'd to. And the *Deſign* of the *Obſervator*, &c. to hinder the *Collections* for them.
6. The *Church* of *England* ought to have a *Fellow-feeling* with them.
7. The Objection of *Jacobitiſm* againſt them, Refer'd to the next.

SATURDAY, *November* 8. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man.* YOu Promis'd me laſt time, *Maſter*, to go on with the Account of the Fall of *Epiſcopacy* in *Scotland*, as likewiſe to tell how the *Obſervator Reviv'd* has Forc'd you upon this Subject; And to ſhew what *Deſign* he had in it.

Rehearſ. I have ſhew'd you about 300 of the *Clergy* who were *Rabbl'd* out of their *Churches* by the *Mobb*; and this Confirm'd, and their *Churches* declar'd *Vacant* by the *Convention* or *Parliament* following. Then *Epiſcopacy* was Aboliſh'd by the Name of an *Inſupportable Grievance*, and *Presbytery* Eſtabliſh'd as moſt Agreeable to the *Word of God*, as well as the *Inclinations* of the *People*. Then the *General Aſſemblies* and *Kirk Indicatories* were ſet up again, and all the *Churches*, *Univerſities*, and *Schools* in the *Nation* put into their hands. and they took Poſſeſſion of them accordingly; except where the *Inclinations* of the *People*, to which they had Appeal'd, prov'd too Hard for the *New Eſtabliſhment*, which the *Kirk* ſtill Complains is the Caſe in too many Places of the *Kingdom*.

Country-m. Then thoſe *Clergy* who had Eſcap'd the *Fury* of the *RABBLE without Doors*, we muſt Suppoſe were *Diſpatch'd* by thoſe *within*.

(2.) *Rehearſ.* You may Suppoſe a Great Many. But ther were ſeverals, eſpecially in the *North*, who were kept in by the *Epiſcopal Inclinations* of the *People* there, who wou'd not Receive the *Presbyterian Preachers* ſent to them. Againſt theſe the *Kirk* Solicited the *Secular Arm*, they were *Summon'd* to Appear before the *Privy Council* at *Edinburgh*, and *Harraſs'd* according to *Law*! But this ſtirr'd up the *Inclinations* of the *People* rather the More, till the Government thought fit not to Preſs the Experiment any further, and K. *Will.* ſent his Orders to ſtop the *Fury* of the *Kirk*, as not being then *Seaſonable*! But the *Kirk* then turn'd the *Cannon*, and Boaſt of theſe *Epiſcopal Clergy* as Inſtances of their *Moderation*, who are ſtill ſuffer'd to keep their *Churches*. Tho' their *Remonſtrances* both to the *Queen* and the *Parliament* (Printed in the *Flying Poſts*) are full of *Complaints* againſt theſe *Epiſcopal Clergy*, and ſhewing the *Miſchiefs* of their being Suffer'd to keep their *Churches*. And they Argue againſt theſe *Clergy* their ſtanding out in oppoſition to the *Laws* and the *Eſtabliſhment*!

Country-m. And do not their *Brethren* the *Diſſenters* in *England* the ſame? And did not Themſelves in *Scotland* the ſame in former *Reigns*, when *Epiſcopacy* was *Eſtabliſh'd*? They cut down Themſelves, while they Strike at others.

(3.) *Rehearſ.* I ſuppoſe they will ſay (they wou'd if they Cou'd) that *Epiſcopacy* is but a *Novel* Invention; That ther is no word of *Biſhops* in the *Primitive Church*; and that all the *Churches* in the World were *Presbyterian*, ever ſince the *Apoſtles* Days! And Provoke me (as I have done them) to ſhew the *Beginning* of *Presbytery*, to name the firſt *Presbyterian Church*! And therefor that the Cauſe is ſo *Clear* againſt *Epiſcopacy*, that none can Pretend Scruple of *Conſcience* not to Submit to *Presbytery*, tho' they had good Reaſon in *Conſcience* not to Submit to *Epiſcopacy*

pacy, even when it was Eſtabliſh'd by *Law*!

Country-m. You make them very *Ridiculous*, that they will Allow the Plea of *Conſcience* to none but to Themſelves! And that even in Caſes where they have not a *Word* to ſay for themſelves, or can Anſwer a *Word* to what is objected againſt them!

(4.) But Pray, *Maſter*, tell me which was the firſt *Presbyterian Church*? That I may have it Ready when they ask me.

Rehearſ. I told you before, it was that at *Geneva*, ſet up by *John Calvin*, in the *Year* 1541. The *Forty One* juſt before Ours. Let them ſhew any *Presbyterian Church* before if they Can. Or let them ſhew which was the firſt *Epiſcopal Church*, and the *Year* when it Began. Keep them Cloſe to this. You have them in a *Net*.

(5.) But to go on with my matter. By the Treatment I have told you the *Epiſcopal Clergy* in *Scotland* met with, you may eaſily believe that moſt of them were Reduc'd to the laſt Neceſſity. Some were forc'd to Quit their *Country*, and ſeek their *Bread* in other Places. And thoſe who ſtay'd were ſupported by the *Charity* of Well-Diſpos'd People. And many were oblig'd to take mean Imployments to ſupply their Wants. And the freſh *Proſecutions* by the *Kirk* upon every Turn, when they durſt Exerciſe any Part of their *Function*, tho' in privat Houſes, kept them under Water, and in perpetual Haraſs. And I have been told, that five or ſix hundred Pounds Sterling a Year of the *Biſhops* Revenues (all ſeiz'd to the *Crown*) was given to the *Kirk* to Defray their Expences in theſe *Proſecutions*. But what Defray'd the Expences of the poor *Proſecuted*? Who were oft ſent to *Priſon*, and *Baniſh'd* from Place to Place. They have now worn out near twenty Years under the *Saws* and the *Harrows*. And being upon the Point of *Periſhing*, they have Apply'd to their *Brethren* the *Church* of *England*, where Bleſſed be *God*, *Epiſcopacy* ſtill keeps a Footing, for a ſeaſonable Relief in their *Extremity*. This has *Enrag'd* and *Provok'd* the *Spirit* of *Presbytery*, leaſt they ſhou'd be Diſappointed of their Beloved *Expectation*, to ſee thoſe *Starve* before their Eyes, whom they have Reduc'd to that *miſerable* Condition! And now all Pains is taken, and this *Obſervator* is Employ'd to put forth his whole *Strength* and *Rhetorick* to ſtop thoſe *Collections* which are going about for the Diſtreſs'd *Scots Clergy*, and to Prejudice every one all that he can againſt Contributing any thing for their Relief. This is the Cruel *Death* I ſpoke of laſt, worſe than *Gun-Powder*, *Axes*, or *Gibbets*. Not to ſuffer others to *Relieve* thoſe whom we have *Starv'd*! But to *Glute* our *Eyes* with their *Expiring Breath*!

Country-m. You have *Chill'd* my *Blood* already! Bleſs us! Can ther be ſuch *Devils* in *Human* Shape! A *Man* wou'd *Pity* his *Enemy* when in *Miſery*. Eſpecially if I brought him to it my ſelf, ſure this wou'd Cauſe ſome *Relenting*! It is a *Fury* indeed can never be ſatisfy'd with *Revenge*!

(6.) But, *Maſter*, what can he ſay upon this Point? All the World muſt know, That theſe *Clergy* muſt be in great *Neceſſity*, who have been out of their *Benefices* theſe twenty Years, if no other *Harm* had been done them. Why then ſhou'd they not be *Reliev'd*, whatever their Sentiments are as to *Church Government*? At leaſt, why ſhou'd not an *Epiſcopal Church* give ſome Help to their *Brethren* who ſuffer in the Cauſe of *Epiſcopacy*? Eſpecially Conſidering it is not ſo long ſince they were in the like *Condition* themſelves. The laſt time before this that *Presbytery* was *Eſtabliſh'd* in *Scotland*, by K. *Char.* I. it ſoon Prevail'd in *England*, and *Epiſcopacy* fell a *Sacrifice* before it, with the Ruin of that *King* who had ſet it up. And all *Human* Affairs are lyable to *Change*, therefore when I ſee another in *Neceſſity*, I ought to Reflect that it may be my own Caſe. What then can the *Obſervator* find to ſay, to Perſwade *Epiſcopal* Men in *England* not to Contribute to the Diſtreſs'd *Epiſcopal Clergy* in *Scotland*? I long to know what he can ſay, or how he can Turn this matter.

(7.) *Rehearſ.* No *Cauſe* or *Perſon* is Proof againſt the Suggeſtions of *Envy* and *Malice*. They have always ſomething to ſay. They ſay, what? Ask *Charity* with a *Dirty Face*! You are a Company of *Jacobites*. You were Turn'd out for not taking the *Oaths* to K. *W.* &c. And for nothing elſe. You might have kept your *Churches* every Man to this Day, if you wou'd have taken the *Oaths*. Thus they ſay.

Country-m. And what ſay you to the Contrary? I'll give you to next *Wedneſday* to Conſider of this. And if your *Anſwer* be not *Clear* and *Satisfactory*, you'll prove but an Indifferent *Advocat*.

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